

**APPROVED MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT
HELD ON MONDAY, April 6, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 18:36 by Board Chair Lee. Present at roll call were Board Members Mark Lee, Jerry Conrad, and Dan Simmons. Steve Hoffman and Mary Bowen were absent; a quorum existed.

Item 1: Minutes: Board members were provided with the minutes from the March 2 regular meeting. A Motion to approve the March 2 minutes, as written, was presented by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Conrad, motion passed 3-0.

Immediately following the motion to approve the March 2nd minutes, Mr. Lee informed the board and public that the controlled burn which was to take place on March 24 or 25 did not take place, primarily because the Arizona State Forestry was unable to obtain permissions needed. The burn has been cancelled until further notice.

Item 2: Treasurer/ Admin Report: In Mrs. Bowen's absence, Mr. Lee read the relevant totals from the February 2015 Financial Summary. Mr. Simmons asked for clarification on a deposit made to the Warrant Account. Chief Moran explained that in the previous month, a payment was made from the Reserve Account but should have been made from the Warrant Account, and the deposit on March 9, 2015 for \$2,972.53 fixes this error. Mr. Lee and Chief Moran discussed the need to transfer \$20,000.00 into the National Bank Account for April 2015's payroll. There was a motion made by Mr. Simmons to move \$20,000.00 from the Warrant Account to the National Bank Account. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Item 6: Memorandum of Understanding: Mr. Lee and Chief Moran discussed with the Board and Public that Mescal J6, City of Benson, Rincon Valley, and Corona de Tucson Fire Districts have jointly applied for a region-wide grant, the Assistance Firefighter's Grant, which would provide Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for firefighting personnel. The idea is that by grouping together, they gain purchasing power, and are more likely to have the Grant approved as a conglomerate rather than a single entity. Mr. Lee invited everyone to read the Memorandum of Understanding and then discussion followed.

Mr. Lee explained that when Mescal J6 originally entered into the agreement, participation was to be 5% but now it is revealed that participation will be 10%. Chief Moran gave the details of what would be provided and the collective savings to Mescal J6 if the grant was obtained. Mr. Simmons asked if the District currently has any of this equipment. Mr. Moran confirmed that the District does have some of the equipment but that it is old, obsolete, and in poor shape. Chief Moran told the Board that the City of Benson Fire Department is currently experiencing financial difficulty and if the required participation is actually 10%, rather than the 5% originally projected, Benson will have to back out. If Benson does not participate, that would remove 26 packs off of the deal, which would increase the prices per pack for the others participating in the grant. Even with Benson's participation yet to be determined, there was a Motion made to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, as is, by Mr. Simmons, with Mr. Conrad seconding the Motion. Motion is carried 3-0.

Item 4: Fire Chief Report: Chief Moran presented his Chief's report.

- There were 38 incidents responded to in the month of March, including a dryer fire with limited personnel initially responding, and a fatal auto accident involving a semi and a pick-up truck.

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Chief Moran noted that although other responders were on their way, the one person staffing Station One was able to get the dryer fire under control very quickly and saved the home. The auto accident was attended by Rincon Valley and HCI, as well as Mescal J6 and all were on scene for approximately 7 hours.

- There have been three small brush fires so far this season.
- The average turn out for March was 3 minutes 35 seconds. This is almost a half of a minute faster than the annual average of four minutes.
- Training has been concentrated on operational tasks and basic firefighter skills. Beginning Wednesday, April 8, the VFIS training course will begin. There will be two classes per month for the next several months.
- A new tire for Brush 171 was needed and new batteries in the Command Vehicle. There were no other issues, but the Brush Vehicle may need new tires in the near future.
- Bluespan Wireless' microwave equipment has been installed, but they needed to order additional equipment to get up and running. Mr. Stace believes we should be operational by the end of April. If this does not end up happening, Chief Moran has alternative options.
- There is no billing at this time, but Ms. Stites is researching billing companies to consider outsourcing the District's billing to a third party.
- Larry Anderson notified the District of a possible vehicle donation from Tucson Electrical Power. Chief Moran indicated the District's interest in obtaining one of the pick-up trucks, but there are fewer trucks than people interested in them. Still, it is believed that the District has a fairly good chance at getting one of the vehicles and we should find out in a few weeks.
- Tom Schelling from Cochise County will be giving a lecture on budgeting on April 13.
- Ms. Stites recently completed and submitted the Essential Records Listing as required by the Arizona Secretary of State.
- Ms. Stites has also begun the process of becoming a public notary. She should be able to provide services in 3 to 4 weeks.
- Some firefighters and their families, along with Chief Moran, plan to participate in the Relay for Life on June 13. Chief has invited anyone interested to participate. Please Contact Tommy Brown if interested in walking or running in the Relay for Life.
- The thermal imaging camera that was donated to the District by City of South Tucson, is operational and it is anticipated that it should work for another year, but it is the Chief's recommendation to budget for a new thermal imaging camera in the next fiscal year.

Item 5: Compensation Administration: Chief Moran detailed how he updated and clarified issues in the Compensation Administration Procedure #025, which is now, Standard Operating Policy #060. A motion to approve changes to Procedure #025 (Policy #060) was requested by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Simmons. The motion carried 3-0.

Item 7: 2015/2016 Fiscal Budget: Chief Moran submitted a timeline to guide individuals through the budget process.

Item 8: Cochise County Election Fees: Mr. Lee discussed the letter from Ms. Katie A. Howard, dated March 13, 2015, where she asks the Mescal J6 Fire District to pay a \$500.00 administration fee for the November 4, 2014 Special District election. The details of the election, which never happened, were discussed. Mr. Lee moved to pay the adjusted fee of \$500.00 but with a letter of condemnation, and Mr. Conrad seconded it. Motion carried 2-1.

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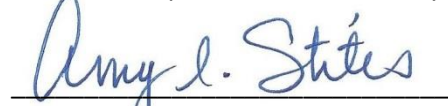
Item 8: Call to the Public: Mrs. Sue Dupee asked if there could be an area at the Administration Building that could be landscaped as a "Memorial" space with a bench and perhaps a flag pole. Ideas were discussed, and ultimately Mr. Lee said that with funds being as tight as they are, he didn't feel like he could allocate funds for the memorial. He welcomed the public to organize a project if they so wished.

Mrs. Dupee invited anyone who may be interested in becoming a Court Advocate, to attend court proceedings, please look into it and pass the word.

Chief Moran presented Mrs. Barbara Radzykewycz with a Mescal J6 Fire District patch, in response to the one her son gave to Chief Moran at the March meeting.

Item 9: Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Conrad, second by Mr. Simmons, Board Chair Lee declared the meeting adjourned at 19:50 hours.

Minutes compiled and submitted by:



Amy Stites, April 6, 2015